

took to give them a quality education and improve their behavior for improving their lives.

Then serving in the California Senate for 20 years and chairing the Health and Human Services Committee, I could guide and fashion legislation that would benefit all Californians.

Then to be able to represent the United States of America abroad was one of the highlights of my life, never thinking that I could rise to that level, but it happened. And then crowning my public service, serving here in this House.

I want to thank my colleagues, I want to thank the staff, and I want to thank my friends for the privilege you have given me. And I would say to you, so long for now. Hope to see you again next year.

□ 1750

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, as the 111th Congress comes to an end, it is with deep sadness that I come to the floor to wish a fond farewell to several members of the Congressional Black Caucus who will not be moving to the 112th Congress. These members, Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, and Congressman ARTUR DAVIS will be sorely missed.

Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, AKA "Auntie," as I affectionately called her, has been a friend and mentor throughout my service in Congress. A proud native of Detroit, Congresswoman KILPATRICK has led a long and distinguished career in public service. Before her service in the Michigan State House and later in Congress, she enriched the lives of young people as an educator. Throughout her tenure in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman KILPATRICK has consistently supported the development of minority businesses and brought numerous projects to her home State as an appropriator.

Also leaving us will be Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, who was also a mentor, who I affectionately have referred to as "Lady Di" due to her grace and elegance. Congresswoman WATSON began her career as a school psychologist. Upon entering politics, she's been a tireless advocate for consumer protection and health care. She was a member of the California Assembly and an ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia during the Clinton administration.

Congressman ARTUR DAVIS has also faithfully served on Capitol Hill. A former prosecutor, Congressman DAVIS has led a career in public service. He served on the House Ways and Means Committee, and has been a strong ad-

vocate for improvements in health care and education throughout the years.

Finally, hailing from the great State of Florida, Congressman KENDRICK MEEK will be leaving us. He is one half of a historic mother-to-son succession to the U.S. House of Representatives and affectionately known as my "Brother." After years in law enforcement, Congressman MEEK continued in public service by entering politics. He came to Congress at the retirement of his mother, Mrs. Carrie Meek. In the House of Representatives, he has faithfully represented the people of Miami and south Florida by focusing on policies that create jobs and improve health care.

The work of Representatives KILPATRICK, WATSON, DAVIS, and MEEK has not gone unnoticed. Their contributions will provide great assistance for not only their constituents, but for all Americans. I firmly believe that they all will continue to be change-makers along whichever paths they follow. Their role as public servants will always remain strong as they continue to enhance their communities. I wish them the best of luck in their next endeavors, and I will cherish the lasting friendship we have always shared.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, before I begin my tribute to my dear friends that are leaving, I want to make mention again of a dear friend that we lost this week, and that is the Honorable Richard Holbrooke, who served this Nation ably and who was given tribute today by H. Con. Res. 335, as amended.

Just a brief word about Ambassador Holbrooke as I begin to talk about the outstanding Members that I wish to pay tribute to. I'm reminded not only of his courage, the magnitude of his physical size, the love that he had for his family, the love that he had for the Nation, and the admiration that he received from around the world, but I'm reminded of his tenure at the United Nations. He did something that was equal to moving the Earth. He brought peace between two giants: one, the Vice President of the United States, who in fact came to speak about HIV/AIDS, and he drew also to that very issue with the then-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman Jesse Helms. He thought that was a great accomplishment—and we did too. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus went to the United Nations at that time. So I am rising to acknowledge Ambassador Holbrooke and will join with my other colleagues who honored him earlier today.

But I have the great, if you will, honor of honoring wonderful, stellar organizations that are coming to pay

tribute to a number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus. And I say "organizations" because I know that sororities, fraternities, the NAACP, women's organizations, so many would want to say thank-you to the following members:

First, my dear sister, Ambassador DIANE WATSON. I always call her "Ambassador." And that she is. She carried herself in a framework of peace; of wanting to bring people together; of challenging our consciousness, and doing it with integrity, honesty, and courageousness. Let me thank her for the work that she did in honoring Dr. Dorothy Height and thank her for the work she did in helping to carry forth the vision of C. Delores Tucker. And now, because of my sister DIANE WATSON and myself and the late Congresswoman Millender-McDonald, I can say that we have the Sojourner Truth statue in the United States Congress, which will always be remembered by this great work.

And her sister, the Honorable CAROLYN KILPATRICK, who took up the Sojourner Truth movement, she's the second African American woman to be appointed to the Appropriations Committee. I can tell you CAROLYN KILPATRICK never wavered from investing in people and ensuring that people had resources that came from the taxpayers' dollars. My hat is off to the former Congresswoman and chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Might I thank a colleague on the Judiciary Committee, Congressman ARTUR DAVIS. Yes, a former U.S. Attorney, but a vigorous speaker and a progeny of the civil rights movement. He was in fact the beneficiary of the civil rights movement and carried it in dignity by becoming a U.S. Attorney in the district that covered Alabama. We thank him for his work on the Ways and Means Committee, and we thank him for his service on the Judiciary Committee, and wish him well.

The Honorable KENDRICK MEEK is to all of us like a brother. We loved his mother, Carrie. And we saw in him those traits as he worked hard in the 30-somethings in the first couple of years when he was in the Congress, trying to get us back in the majority, but more importantly, speaking to the people.

He ran a fantastic open, wide, welcoming race for the United States Senate. His great days are before him. His wonderful wife and children were a fixture around this place, and we pay tribute to him because of the passion and sacrifice he made for Haitians in his area and for the many people that he represented.

So, Madam Speaker, let me say to you, sadness falls because we will be losing to great things Members like Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, Congressman ARTUR DAVIS, and Congressman KENDRICK MEEK. As my dear sister, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, is